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Department of State

# TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA 19

INFO GPM 03 SC 01 RSC 01 USIA 12 H 02 NSC 10 NSA 02 L 03 INR 07 P 04
CIA 04 DOD 01 SP 02 SS 35 SAH 02 SAL 01 ACDA 17 AID 30 IO 21
RSR 01 /178 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szabo DATE 10/5/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1852

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUB: LOWER HOUSE ELECTORAL LAW

1. DIRECTORATE SECGEN PHAN XUAN CHIEU AND DIRECTORATE DIRECTEUR DE CABINET DO DANG CONG JULY 24 TOLD EMBOFF THAT DIRECTORATE WILL REQUEST THREE CHANGES IN LOWER HOUSE ELECTORAL LAW AS DRAFTED BY ASSEMBLY. ACCORDING TO CONG, THESE CHANGES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ASSEMBLY LEADERS AND THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ASSEMBLY

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 1852 C O N F I D E N T I A L
AGREEMENT. THE CHANGES ARE:
A. THE DATE OF THE ELECTION FOR THE LOWER HOUSE WILL BE CHANGED FROM NOVEMBER 5 TO OCTOBER 22. THUS THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE ESSENTIALLY COMPLETED AND IN PLACE BY NATIONAL DAY (NOVEMBER 1).
B. THE NUMBER OF MINORITY DEPUTIES WILL BE INCREASED: TEN MONTAGNARDS INSTEAD OF 9, AND 6 KHMERS INSTEAD OF 4.

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C. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FTR CANDIDATES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PRESENT ASSEMBLY WILL NOT RPT NOT BE WAIVED. (THE PROVISION THAT SUCH DOCUMENTATION WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED OF ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR THE UPPER HOUSE WAS OMITTED FROM THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTORAL LAW BY AN ASSEMBLY "CLERICAL ERROR".)

2. GENERAL CHIEU AND CONG SAID THAT THE DIRECTORATE ALSO FEELS THAT THE LOWER HOUSE WILL BE TOO BIG. THEY CALCULATE THAT THERE WILL BE AROUND 130 MEMBERS, AND THIS IS "FAR TOO MANY DEPUTIES" FOR A NATION WITH A POPULATION AS SMALL AS THAT OF SOUTH VIET NAM. HOWEVER, THE DI
ECTORATE WILL NOT
REQUEST ANY CHANGE IN THE FORMULA WHICH WILL DETERMINE THE SIZE OF THE LOWER HOUSE.

BUNKER

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